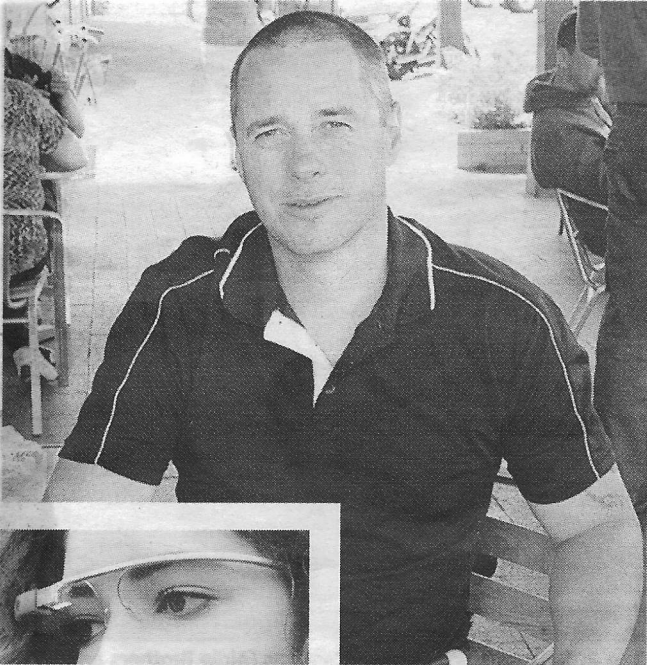


Keeping an eye on Google keeping its eye on us



Alexander Hayes in Bungendore and the Google Glass device (inset)

By Angie Angel

Last June 2013 the Mirror ran an article on the emerging technology of Google Glass and other wearable computers and switched on video devices and their implications for privacy.

The Mirror caught up with Alexander Hayes of Bungendore who is writing a PhD on the implications of wearable technology.

"There are tens of thousands developers working on Google Glass at the moment and thousands of them are application developers," Alexander said.

Google Glass is a hands free device which is worn as eyeglasses and which streams video and live 'life logging' back to the Google servers, ('the cloud') and this stored data can be recalled at will and be reviewed on the transparent glass screen in front of your eyes. The Glass website <http://glass.google.com> boasts that the device will be equipped with many abilities, such as the user

being able to wink to "make it take a still photo", "Shares what you see- Live!", "Records what you see- hands free", "Gets directions" (maps appear in the screen in front of your eyes), "Speak into it to send a message" or ask it whatever is on your mind eg "OK Google Glass, how long is the Brooklyn Bridge?" or will translate languages for you when you are next in a Chinese bazaar and need to quickly ask the price of a bunch of celery. The device answers back or records or recalls your data accordingly.

With almost instant search facilities constantly being developed to sort (by various criteria) what will probably be billions of terabytes stored on the 'cloud' by users, the question arises as to who will have access to all this stored information. Marketers already plunder Facebook records and other willingly offered internet information, and political and policing authorities will no » C3

C2» doubt take an interest in its uses for evidence.

Last July Alexander attended a conference on wearable computers in Toronto. "It was the first confirmation that Glass is coming very fast out of the Google stables," he said.

"I got to meet with leading technologists who have great reserve about what is happening," Alexander said. "Glass is in the beta phase and is available to people for \$1,500 to test and explore its capabilities. But there is a cache of units sitting in Singapore ready to ship. Its

development is up to prototype 3. It will probably be half that price when it is finally in the shops. Presently it is only available for testing if you apply to Google which you can do through the net."

Alexander also on that trip attended a 'Computer Freedom and Privacy' conference in Washington, where he interviewed the Head of Homeland Security. This conference was ironically sponsored by Facebook and was streamed live into the Facebook servers. "There were 400-500 delegates at that particu- » C5

C4» lar conference' Alexander said. "I have more recently seen developers wearing Google Glass in Canberra."

The theme of surveillance and tracking is inescapable. Alexander ran a drones workshop at the Ryerson University in Toronto. "Drones are here." He said. "They are higher up in Australian skies, out of our field of vision. Our sense of privacy is only as far as we can see up in the sky." In February Alexander is going to Adelaide University to workshop hobbyists' use of drones and their impact on commercial air space.

"We are moving into a new paradigm in the way we live our lives and into new concepts of privacy" Alexander said.

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